In The Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 9, line 7, please delete "bunyviruses" and insert therefore --bunyaviruses--.

Page 10, line 8, please delete "bunyviruses" and insert therefore --bunyaviruses--.

Page 18, line 14, please delete "bunyviruses" and insert therefore --bunyaviruses--..

In The Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) An assay for identifying a [peptide or small organic compound] substance that inhibits the specific interaction of a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the viral protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and the formation of a complex, in the presence of a test [peptide or small organic compound] substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of the test [peptide or small organic compound] substance to inhibit the interaction between the host cell protein and the viral protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test [peptide or small organic compound.] substance, with the proviso that said substance is not an antibody.

2. (Thrice Amended) An assay for identifying a [peptide or small organic compound] substance that inhibits the interaction of influenza virus nucleoprotein with a host cell protein comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of influenza virus nucleoprotein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test [peptide or small organic compound] substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test [peptide or small organic compound] substance to inhibit the interaction between influenza virus nucleoprotein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test [peptide or small organic compound] substance.

Please add the following new claims:

--46. (New) An assay for identifying a substance that inhibits the interaction of a virus protein with a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, which transports said viral protein comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of a virus protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between a virus protein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance.

47. (New) The assay of claim 46, wherein said viral protein further interacts with another viral component.

48. (New) An assay for identifying a substance that inhibits the interaction of an influenza virus protein with a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of an influenza virus protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between an influenza virus protein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance.

49. (New) An assay for identifying a substance that inhibits the interaction of a paramyxovirus-derived virus protein with a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of a paramyxovirus-derived virus protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between a paramyxovirus-derived protein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance.

50. (New) The assay of claim 49, wherein said paramyxovirus is a parainfluenza virus, a measles virus, or a respiratory syncytial virus.

51. (New) An assay for identifying a substance that inhibits the interaction of a human immunodeficiency virus protein with a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of a human immunodeficiency virus protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between a human immunodeficiency virus protein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance.

52. (New) An assay for identifying a substance that inhibits the interaction of a herpes viridae virus protein with a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of a herpes viridae-derived virus protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between a herpes viridae-derived virus protein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance.

53. (New) An assay for identifying a peptide or organic compound that inhibits the interaction of an adenoviridae-derived virus protein with a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of an adenoviridae-derived virus protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between an adenoviridae-derived virus protein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance.

54. (New) An assay for identifying a substance that inhibits the interaction of a bunyaviridae-derived virus protein with a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of a bunyaviridae-derived virus protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between a bunyaviridae-derived virus protein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance.

55. (New) An assay for identifying a substance that inhibits the interaction of an arenaviridae-derived virus protein with a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of an arenaviridae-derived virus protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between an arenaviridae-derived virus protein and the host

cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance.

56. (New) An assay for identifying a substance that inhibits the interaction of an orthomyxo-like virus-derived virus protein with a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide fragment comprising the binding site of an orthomyxo-like virus-derived virus protein with a protein or a peptide fragment comprising the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test substance, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test substance to inhibit the interaction between an orthomyxo-like virus-derived virus protein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test substance.--

Remarks

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error in the spelling of bunyaviruses.

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the scope of the invention by reciting the proviso that said subtance is not an antibody. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, at page 29, lines 10-13 and lines 28-31. Applicants note that this